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increase in litigation in this subject should prove useful and convenient aids to the profession.

EDWARD BROOKS, JR.

NEW ROADS AND ROAD LAWS IN THE UNITED STATES. By ROY STONE, Vice-President National League for Good Roads, etc. New York: D. Van Nostrand Co. 1894.

Although this book does not, strictly speaking, belong to the domain of legal literature, it will nevertheless be read with profit by all lawyers interested in the broad and important subject of road improvement. The wretched roads which disgrace so many sections of the country are evils which must be corrected not only by the adoption of scientific methods of construction, but also by radical changes in the antiquated road laws and in the system of public expenditure. Mr. Stone devotes the greater part of his work to a description of the kinds of roads suitable for various localities, etc., and gives us some very encouraging information as to the practical value resulting to the farmer by the laying of smooth, hard surfaces without the accompaniment of increased taxation. The appendix contains the substance of the recently enacted road laws of sixteen states, as well as the schemes for much needed legislation and plans for state aid in several important states. It is to be regretted, however, that the author did not dwell upon the incomplete and unpractical features of the old road laws (still in force, alas, in too many states), and contrast them with the new provisions.

The book is exceedingly well turned out. The illustrations add much to the interest.

W. S. E.

TABLES FOR ASCERTAINING PRESENT VALUE OF VESTED AND CONTINGENT RIGHTS OF DOWER, CURTESY, ANNUITIES AND OF OTHER LIFE ESTATES; DAMAGES FOR DEATH BY WRONGFUL ACT, ETC. Computed and Compiled by FLORIEN GIAUQUE, A.M., and HENRY B. McCLURE, A.M. Cincinnati: Robert Clarke & Co. 1894.

These tables, based chiefly upon the Carlisle Table of Mortality, appear to have been prepared with anxious care by the compilers, who represent themselves as having taken every precaution to prevent errors, whether in computation or in the printing. The profession will undoubtedly find this volume of great service in the solution of the complicated "present value problems," which so frequently arise in the domain of real property law, and also in the determination of troublesome questions relating to the true measure of damage for the premature termination of life by negligence or wrongful act. The volume contains Life and Annuity Tables, with rules for their use in respect of vested and contingent dower and curtesy rights and damages for injury, a death from another's wrongful act, negligence, etc.; the Bowditch Table, table of expectancy of life as shown by the Carlisle, the Combined Experience, the American Experience, the Thirty Officers' Experience, the Farr No. 3, and the Northampton Tables of Mortality, etc., etc. There is also a table and rule for ascertaining the present value of any sum at 2, 2½, 3, 3½, 4, 4½, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 per cent. for any number of years from one to eighty, inclusive. This latter table is especially valuable. It is computed upon a compound interest basis and the formula used is $\frac{1-(1+i)^{-n}}{i} = \frac{1-v^n}{i}$.

In view of the number of decisions in favor of the admissibility of such tables as evidence in suits involving the questions to which they relate, the importance of having this volume at hand cannot readily be over estimated. The tables are printed in type that is admirably clear and the arrangement of the figures is in all respects satisfactory. G. W. P.

A LEGAL DOCUMENT OF BABYLONIA. By MORRIS JASTROW, Jr., Ph.D. From the "Oriental Studies" of the Oriental Club of Philadelphia. 1894.

In this little pamphlet Dr. JASTROW discusses a Legal Document of Babylonia, dealing with the rescission of an invalid contract of sale. The "Document" in question is